

ATTACHMENT 9

Minutes From January Meeting

**Meeting Summary
BDAC Ecosystem Roundtable Meeting
January 13, 1998**

Roundtable Members and Liaisons in Attendance

Hari Modi, NCPA
Gary Bobker, BI
David Yardas, EDF
Cynthia Koehler, SSFBA
Jason Peltier, CVPWA
Greg Gartrell, CCWD
Rich Golb, NCWA
John Mills, RCRC

1998 Proposals

Cindy Darling presented the 1998 funding process which will be used to fund projects in three ways, through funding of additional proposals remaining from the 1997 process, through additional focused grants and through designated actions. A total of \$88.5 million is available to fund projects in 1998. There were questions about the possibility of additional stakeholder contributions and it appears that MWDSC is not planning to make another \$10 million contribution. It was noted that there were two other funding sources including the \$15 million in watershed funding from Proposition 204 and the on-going funding of the CVPIA. Updates on these two funding sources will be made at the next meeting. It was also noted that inquiry proposals had been reviewed and applicants should get their results shortly. Members also requested a list of all the projects not funded.

The Integration Panel had met and recommended funding form \$26.1 million in proposals remaining from 1997. Integration panel members answered questions from Roundtable members regarding this recommendation. Roundtable members requested that staff look for cost-sharing on any levee/habitat projects and it was suggested that this would be a good area to develop future guidelines. Other issues discussed included the need to evaluate partially funded proposals to make sure funding was not being "thrown away", the need to ensure that cost-sharing opportunities were taken advantage of, and the need to not fund activities that an agency would have undertaken anyway. Generally, the Roundtable members concurred with the \$26.1 million in proposals.

Several designated actions related to water quality and water acquisition were included in the package for discussion purposes only. On the water quality actions, Roundtable members wanted additional information demonstrating that these actions were not duplicative of other programs. The water acquisition actions generated substantial concerns. Concerns shared by most of the Roundtable members included the need to focus on the long term, to coordinate with CVPIA, the need to clearly identify the goals for water acquisition and the process used to

evaluate potential actions, and the need to take a bigger view of water acquisition beyond just buying water. Other concerns included whether \$20 million was too much or not enough, the adequacy of the ERPP and the AFRP as planning tools to support acquisition, the need to clearly articulate how it would relate to existing programs or regulatory actions, the need to resist the temptation to be opportunistic with little documentation of benefits, whether it was appropriate to proceed with storage, how much water would ultimately be needed, and many more timely and interesting issues. It was decided that several members would come back to the next meeting with some more definition of these issues.

Roundtable members then discussed the fact that no proposals in the North Bay were included in the Integration Panel recommendations. The Integration Panel members used the 1997 priority species and based on these, the projects in the North Bay did not place high enough in priority. The consensus from the Roundtable was to not second guess the Integration Panel on this issue but to address it in the 1998/99 planning process.

1998/99 Planning Process

A red-line strikeout version of the workgroup write-up for the 1998/99 process was discussed as well as the charge to the revised Integration Panel and changes to that panel. Roundtable members wanted the charge revised so it also referenced the findings of the Scientific Review panel and the ecosystem components of the water quality program. They wanted it clear that the panel was being asked for ecological priorities, not actions. As for membership, it was suggested that a resource economist be added but there was not consensus on this point.

Future Events

Focused grants should advertised in March. The next Roundtable meeting was set for February 11 and would be a long one.

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